



July 2020

### Community Chaplain

Chaplain Larry Batchlear is available for Jewish Life-cycle events and can be reached at 352-7191

### Business Office

Larry Batchlear (806-355-0023) or Bob Blinderman (806-372-9401)

### Looking for articles.

Have you read a good book lately? Or perhaps an inspirational reading or poem? Do you have a recipe you would like to share?

Temple B'nai Israel newsletter is published monthly. Submissions for the newsletter are due the 21st of the prior month. Send to:

[bnaisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaisraelamarillo@gmail.com),  
Attn. Mary Blinderman

*We welcome your contributions to the newsletter.*

Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town? Or looking to find a way to connect with Temple B'nai Israel? Contact any of our board members and we will be glad to assist you.

### President's Message

Shalom chaverim!

I hope everyone's life is beginning to see some normalcy by now. I ask myself: have there been any positives from this pandemic chaos? Have I learned anything? Well, yes.....

The first thing I learned is to stop procrastinating! If I had done that, I would now have a valid Texas Driver's license! I put it off until "next week," since it did not have to be renewed in person until April! I cannot tell you how many times I have said "We really need to get together" to another person or couple. And then that time never comes. They move, we drift apart, or sadly, several have died. #1: stop procrastinating! Do it when you think of it. Put that get-together on the calendar NOW! Even if it is just a catch-up phone call, make it happen! Tomorrow is never guaranteed.

Secondly, I can live simpler. I CAN go months without a visit to a hair or nail salon! I didn't die from it! I could still go out in public! I can make meals around what I have in the house already. I learned to "waste not, want not!" I joined a local CSA which started pick up of locally-grown produce in April. Andrew has learned how to eat chard....not willingly....but a lot of chard! I have been happy to be home, enjoying dinner and yoga (by video) in the back yard. We took a little slow down at work, so I used that time to clean out the overgrown flower bed in front of the office. #2: slow down, breathe, prioritize, be creative, be aware.

Third, and most importantly, I need human companionship, we all do. After months of Go To Meeting Shabbat services, I thought Wow....this is so easy! I can wear flip flops to Shabbat services! I can munch on cheese with a glass of wine during services. Maybe this has some future potential? Then several of us got together for a farewell photo, to give a lasting memory to our dear friend "Zee" who has moved out of Amarillo. It was like a reunion. A few of us are "safe" after having recovered from COVID 19, and I couldn't get enough of hugging them! We took a compliant "social distancing" picture, and stayed for an hour, just catching up. It filled my heart and soul, and I felt whole for the rest of the day. #3: when it is again safe, we must, ALL of us, fill the sanctuary. It is good for our minds and bodies. And, we must be cognizant of those of us who are not able to physically attend services. We must continue video Shabbat for them, and more importantly, we must take time to personally visit them, to stay in touch, to keep them a part of our Temple community.

My friends, I realize how much each of you mean to me, and I long to see you again,

*(cont next page)*

## Adult Education News

### Adult Education Class Update

Out of abundance of caution, services and adult education classes are temporarily being held virtually in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. To receive an invitation, please send an email to [bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com)

This will be our summer service schedule, via Go To Meeting. All services will begin at 7 p.m.

**July 3**

*led by Kim and Larry Batchlear*

**July 17**

*led by Harry Leventhal*

**July 31**

*led by Bob Blinderman and Archie Hunnicutt*

**August 14**

*led by Mary Blinderman (service in English)*

**August 28**

*led by Harry Leventhal*

## President's Message

*cont. from previous page*

in person SOON. As we begin our membership drive next month, I hope you will remember how much your Temple community means to you and continue to pledge your commitment to it.

With love and prayers for good health. L'hitraot!

Candy

## NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL CELEBRATES SAFELY!

The Challenge: How to say goodbye to Zee who is moving from Amarillo!

The Solution: A Tailgate Party with safely wrapped breakfast tacos was followed by a group photo at the Amarillo Mural at SE 13th Avenue and Tyler.

Thank you to all the cheerful people who gathered and to Larry Batchlear, Photographer!

## SIMCHAS

Washington Hebrew Congregation is pleased to announce that Susan Bortnic, daughter of Stan and Louise Adelman, sister of Allan, has been appointed senior cantor, effective July 1st, 2020.

### Temple Contacts

<b>Candy Alpar</b> , President .....	341-8741
<b>Janet Meller</b> , Vice President.....	340-8425
<b>Kim Hooker</b> , Secretary .....	505-463-8402
<b>Bob Blinderman</b> , Treasurer .....	372-9401
<b>Carol Bakwin</b> , Choir .....	352-7191
<b>Larry Batchlear</b> , Community Chaplain.....	355-0023

### Sisterhood Contacts

<b>Joan Altman</b> , Co-President .....	355-4817
<b>Victoria Thompson</b> , Co-President.....	670-5866
<b>Alex Rimmel</b> , Vice-President .....	316-8280
<b>Kim Hooker</b> , Secretary .....	505-463-8402
<b>Mary Blinderman</b> , Treasurer .....	372-9401

## ADULT EDUCATION

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### Observations on Cyber Adult Education Class

Having Temple B'nai Israel adult education classes during the semester of the virus is so different than any prior semester. It seems hard. But it really is, as they say, a piece of cake compared to what Jews of other eras have overcome.

Enormous challenges presented to a small, remote Jewish community ever have been a substantial part of our Jewish heritage. Time and again there have been obstacles to our gathering together as co-religionists to share our joys and sorrows, our simchas and our sympathies. All is from God, of course, but at the same time it appears to many modern Jews that our circumstances are from natural sources or man-made sources. And sometimes we moderners get caught in a Kafkaesque nightmare from which we have nowhere to escape.

We Jews are well trained in furtive gestures to avoid detection from being discovered by our conquering rulers while we study our sacred texts or say our sacred prayers. We Jews have crossed frontiers on many continents so that we could live our lives as Jews. Without the uncounted, necessary battles our ancestors fought to sustain us we would not have survived for these thousands of years.

With truly little effort today we Jews in Amarillo have been given a great opportunity. With remote communication we can gather together in more than safety, in fact, in comfort. None of us need get to the meeting place early to remove the snow from the walkway and to warm the meeting room in the winter. At the touch of a few buttons, our images and words instantaneously can be shared with Jews over the horizon in communication that is both mutual and spontaneous.

This amazing age of instant, long distance communication began with the telegraph only three generations ago. The semester of the virus has pushed us past the next threshold long before we were intending to reach it. The opportunity to regularly communicate with co-religionists instantly and over vast distances is now. We hesitate to rejoice because the media seems awkward and the images seem so remote. But in my not-too-distant memory I can recall how awkward it was for me when I first used the internet with a modem that required for me to cradle the phone receiver in it. The connection would last for only a few short words before it was lost. That, dear student, is where we are today with Zoom meeting technology.

Let us each continue to appreciate each other's motivation to continue to attend our adult education classes. Let us rejoice in the gift of sharing good ideas with our Jewish friends with whom we share this path of being challenging in a good way rather than being challenged in a bad way. After all, if our ancestors had been content with being challenged, would any of us be here to celebrate this age of opportunity?

See you in cyberspace,

Bob

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support! (as of June 25, 2020)

### General Fund

#### **In Support of Temple B'nai Israel**

*Anonymous*

*Emilio and Dora Barrera*

*David Needham*

*Dorrie Carskadon*

#### **In Honor of Robert Holt's 87th Birthday**

*Harry and Harriette Tallert*

**In loving memory of our mother, Mona Kaitcer, who filled our lives with happiness and joy. We will cherish you always!!**

*Steve and Lisa Kaitcer*

### CHAPLAIN FUND

*Kim Hooker and Larry Batchlear*

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/8 Karen Schroeder

7/9 Andrew Alpar

7/9 Harriette Tallert

7/10 Mary Schneider

7/12 Eileen Pan

7/13 Linda Goldstein

7/14 Laura Duman Yarvis

7/15 George Raffkind

7/17 Katie Campbell Wilkenfeld

7/18 Adam Schae

7/20 Jonathan Tallert

7/22 Lisa Hunnicutt

7/29 Simone Laura Kohn

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/3 Dyana and Barry Duman

### Note:

*If you would like to be included in the birthdays and anniversaries, please send an email to [bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com) Attn: Newsletter Editor*

## Memorial Board Installed

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Special thanks to Neal Scott for donating his crew for the installation and to Preston Doerfler for helping Neal's crew. And thank you again to Neal Scott, Candy and Andrew Alpar, Larry and Kim Batchlear, Harry and Harriette Tallert, and Bob and Mary Blinderman for their generous donations to purchase the new memorial board.

## Looking for articles.

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## The Word is Yiddish

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**Schmo** – foolish or silly person

**Schnoz**—a large or prominent nose

**Schtick** – one's act or routine

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

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The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

Carrie Delaney  
(Yael bat Sarah Imani)

DeLana Honaker

Jo Ann Holt

Bruce Kriegel

Mabel Knox

David Altman

Henrietta Kohn

Harriette Tallert

*Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.*

## Jewish Trivia for July

*Courtesy of Karen Schroeder*

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### **Inspiration**

#### A Genuine Partner of God

by Lydia Kukoff

What I liked most about Judaism was that it was oriented toward this life and this world in a very real way. It seemed to give its followers a system to live by, a system that at the same time had legal, spiritual, moral, and ethical components that were inseparable from the religion itself. Judaism never asked that things be accepted purely on faith. It gave each person an active role to play in the world as a genuine partner of God. Judaism emphasizes living with my fellow people in this world, but also contained a deeply spiritual element which nourished and nurtured me. I was also drawn to Judaism because of its formidable and wonderful intellectual tradition, its sense of history and antiquity, its connection with an unbroken chain of people and traditions spanning almost 4,000 years! What a people! What a faith!

Lydia Kukoff (born 1942), an early leader of Reform Jewish Outreach, the Reform movement's ongoing effort to encourage participation in Jewish life and conversion to Judaism by persons not born Jewish, is the author of *Choosing Judaism*, a book about conversion to Judaism.

## Podcast Recommendation

*Courtesy of Kim Hooker*

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Recommended Podcast

← Look for this icon on your phone or go to [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



Search for “**Miriam and Youssef**”

A ten part drama exploring the troubled founding of Israel. It is a well produced “radio style” show that is complete with good actors, music, sound effects and good plot!

### **How to find on your smartphone:**

- Look for the purple person icon on your phone.
- Type “**Miriam and Youssef**” into the search bar.
- Select the Podcast image.
- Select the word “**Subscribe**.”
- All of the episodes will download to your phone!

## Yahrzeits for July

### **July**

Hymie Shiller 7/1

\*Rebecca Steinberg 7/2

\*Sophia Heend 7/2

\*Gladys Guggenheim 7/2

Edythe Lipman Schwartz 7/2

Jack I. Bakwin 7/3

\*Grace Anisman 7/5

Norman Levick 7/6

\*Nettie Unger 7/7

\*Sam Goldstein 7/8

Joseph Sisson 7/8

Albert Sidney Chism 7/9

Maurice B. Brown 7/10

\*Lena Silverman Glass 7/11

Evelyn Berg 7/11

Fannie Ellis 7/12

Stanley Hammer 7/12

Milton Schneider 7/14

Anna Metz 7/15

\*Rebecca Kurtzman 7/16

Dr. George Lipsky 7/17

\*Rachel Wartell (26 Tamuz) July 18, 2020

\*Nathan Jacobson 7/18

\*Dr. Arthur Blum, Rabbi 7/18

Dr. Herbert Wiseblood 7/19

Lillian Saxe 7/19

Vera Louise Wilson 7/20

\*Louis Feferman 7/22

Tommy Assiter 7/22

Anne Klein 7/22

\*Charles Wolfson 7/23

Ethel Solomon 7/24

Leon Schiffman 7/25

Sadie Blank 7/25

\*Minnie Leder 7/26

Elaine Gelbart (7 Av) July 28, 2020

\*Hilda Mayer Seliger 7/30

Marion Feldinger 7/30

Stephen Gens 7/31

Louis J. Alexander

Eva Reese

Bobby Rasor

Vera Wolinski

Herman Gold

Nancy L. Faris

Israel Taylor

Abraham Mogelson

Dr. Harold Jacob Reese

Sid Raub

Isabelle Strumsky

Rosina Kinzit

Morris Ruback

Jake Bagelman

*The "\*" indicates individuals whose names are on the Yahrzeit boards in the sanctuary.*

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If any member would like to add a name to the monthly yahrzeit list, please send the name, date of yahrzeit and your relationship to [BnailsraelAmarillo.org](mailto:BnailsraelAmarillo.org), Attn: Mary Blinderman. Thank you.